Deaths due to meninggitis in Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal

933. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of deaths have been reported in Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal due to meninggitis;

(b) if so, what are the total number of deaths during the last six months reported from these States;

(c) what steps Government have taken to control this disease; and

(d) whether any research has been conducted for the invention of medicine to control this disease, if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) As per the reports received from the State Health Authorities the number of deaths due to Meningococcal Meninggitis reported upto 30-9-86 are as under:

Andhra Pradesh	—11
Uttar Pradesh	—17
West Bengal	—N.A.

(c) The case detection programme, weekly monitoring of the cases, chemoprophylaxis, immunoprophylaxis and detection of healthy carriers have been intensified.

(d) Government has agreed to initiate research and development of technology of production of pure polysacharide antigens as a pilot project in connection with production and indigenous manufacture of meningococcal vaccine.

Construction of Rail Yatri Niwas

934. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to build a Rail Yatri Niwas in Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be constructed and the expenditure involved in the Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rail Yatri Niwas with 224 beds capacity is under construction at New Delhi Railway Station.

(c) The work is likely to be completed by early 1987 and the approximate cost of this project is Rs. 2.23 crores.

Bangalore-Mysore Railway line

935. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made with regard to conversion of the Bangalore-Mysore railway line into broad gauge;

(b) what was the amount sanctioned for this project and the amount of expenditure spent on it so far;

(c) whether Government of Karnataka has requested for the expeditious completion of the Project; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and by when it is likely be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Progress of this work is 24%.

(b) Estimate was sanctioned for Rs. 26.02 crore. Expenditure upto March, 1986 is Rs. 6.38 crore and outlay for 1986-87 is Rs. 99 Lakhs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Completion of the Project will depend upon the availability of resources in the coming years.

Percentage of failure in class Tenth Examinations conducted by Central Board of Secondary Education in Sikkim

936. SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN SARING: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of failure of students in the examination of Class tenth conducted by Central Board of Secondary Examination in Sikkim during the year 1986;

(b) what are the reasons for the higher percentage of failure; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to reduce this percentage?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) 68.3% among regular candidates and 73.4% among the private candidates who have appeared in all or some subjects.

(b) The reasons was poor performances in English, Mathematics and Science subjects.

(c) Since school education is being looked after mostly by State Governments, it is basically for the State Government of Sikkim to take such remedial measures as may be considered necessary. The National Policy on Education 1986 envisages several measures to improve the content and level of education. It is expected that the Government of Sikkim would initiate appropriate measures accordingly to improve educational standards with the assistance of national institutions wherever required.

Issue of bonds/debentures for raising capital for construction of railway lines

937. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 2071 given in the Rajya Sabha on 13th August, 1986 and state:

(a) what are the reasons for not tapping the readily available abundant local resources when construction and renovation of high priority railway lines continues to be deferred and abandoned for want of resources; and

(b) whether Government are considering to tap these resources at least on an experimental basis for selected routes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) As already mentioned in the reply to Unstarred Question No. 2071 dated 13.8.86 referred to by the Hon'ble Member, the Ministry of Railways is not proposing to raise any debentures for the Mankhurd-Belapur railway line. This is a metropolitan transport scheme in which the Ministry of Railways and the State Government have agreed to share cost on a certain basis and it is for the State Government to decide the manner in which they will raise their part of the share. As far as the Ministry of Railways is concerned, as already announced by the then Union Minister of Transport in his Railway Budget speech on 26-2-86, they propose to raise Rs. 250 crores in the current year through market borrowings in order to augment their internal resources. This is expected to assist the Railways in enhancing their level of activity under various heads of their Plan.